

2023 PROGRESS REPORT

# 15 YEARS OF CLEAN WATER

## OUR MISSION

To transform lives in east Africa by working with partners and beneficiaries to bring the blessing of clean, safe water, connecting communities in need with supporters who have the heart and spirit to make a difference.

## OUR VISION

We envision a world where we share generously to provide health, hope, and water to those we serve.

## 15 YEARS OF IMPACT

1,757 TOTAL  
WELLS FUNDED.

OVER 815,000 PEOPLE HAVE  
GAINED ACCESS TO CLEAN  
WATER TO-DATE.

water to thrive  
BUILD WELLS CHANGE LIVES



# A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**I am overcome with immense gratitude as I share the extraordinary impact your generosity has had on our mission and the communities we serve. Together, we've accomplished incredible feats and I'm thrilled to share the progress we made this year.**

**The theme for this year's progress report resonates deeply with your actions:**

**"See the Difference, Be the Difference." You are the embodiment of this theme—someone who took action and transformed lives through kindness. Whether you funded a full well, initiated a fundraising campaign, invited friends and family to contribute, or donated to our operations, your impact has been profound. Your contributions, regardless of their size or designation, are instrumental in enabling us to continue our work and make tangible differences in the lives of those in need.**

**In 2022, thanks to you, a staggering total of 117 wells were funded. These wells are more than a source of clean water—they represent hope, progress and powerful change. Their existence means that girls can attend school without worrying about water collection, women can engage in income-generating activities, and children lead healthier lives.**

**Moreover, amidst the challenges posed by the recent conflict in Ethiopia, donor support allowed us to respond effectively and efficiently. We received critical funding to address damaged wells. As a result, 238 wells were rehabilitated in the Tigray region of Ethiopia with ongoing efforts to restore more wells soon. These rehabilitation efforts hold immense significance as they enable families to rebuild their lives and return to their homes without the burden of walking long distances to reach contaminated water.**

**These wells mean restored hope and dignity for communities facing adversity.**

**In addition, a recent grant of \$350,000 from an anonymous donor allowed us to address water access in rural health clinics in southern Ethiopia, which has transformed the landscape of healthcare in these underserved regions. This grant enabled us to provide clean water, and essential facilities such as flushing toilets, showers and sinks, to 34 rural health clinics. The importance of clean water in healthcare settings cannot be overstated. Now, new mothers have access to a shower after giving birth, and overall healthcare for newborns and patients has vastly improved.**





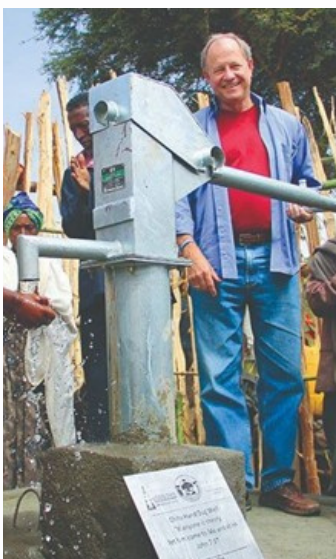
At Water to Thrive, providing clean water is the cornerstone of our existence. However, the continuity of our efforts remains a paramount concern. Ensuring the continuity of our work into the future is crucial. To address this, we've placed a strong emphasis on sustainability culminating in the establishment of an endowment fund. I'm delighted to share that the endowment has reached \$700,000 toward our \$1 million goal! This initiative is part of our plan to provide clean water for another 15 years and beyond.

Reflecting on the incredible accomplishments of this past year fills me with gratitude, not just from myself or our small staff, but from our dedicated board of directors and, most importantly, from every person whose life has been transformed. Your generosity has alleviated burdens, made life easier and fulfilled one of the most basic human needs—access to clean water!



S U S A N N E   W I L S O N ,   E X E C U T I V E   D I R E C T O R

## A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDERS



### DICK MOELLER

"I believe that life is a marathon, not a sprint, and not everything has to be done immediately, but at some point in your life, you have to do something meaningful for others. This journey has been blessed, and our progress has happened organically; it's not forced. I am so grateful for the thousands of people who have made our mission possible over the last 15 years."



### ED SCHARLAU

"Being with the people, hearing their stories, gathering water with them, crying and laughing with them—it puts into perspective what really matters in life. It is most definitely true that each of us has the capacity to change another person's life for the better, especially when that change involves access to safe, clean water."



# YOUR INCREDIBLE IMPACT



## ETHIOPIA

305 wells in 2022  
74,092 people served in 2022  
1,693 total wells to-date  
697,030 people served to-date



## UGANDA

55 wells in 2022  
24,190 people served in 2022  
271 total wells to-date  
132,076 people served to-date



## TANZANIA

10 wells in 2022  
11,135 people served in 2022  
82 total wells to-date  
82,599 people served to-date



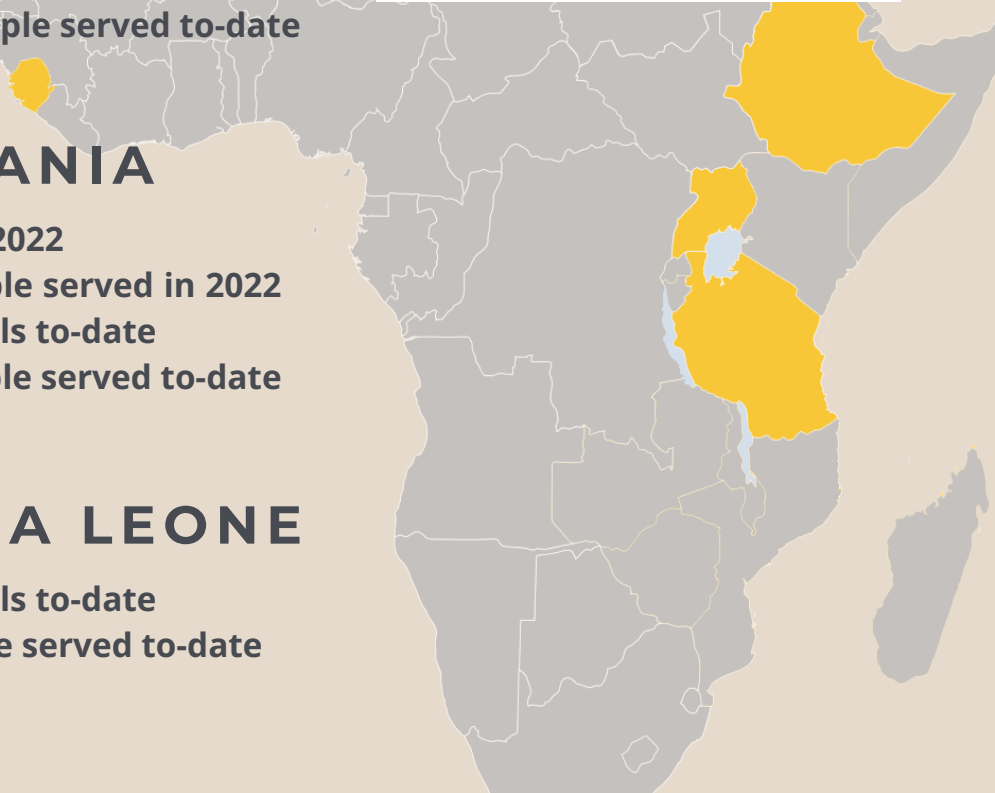
## SIERRA LEONE

11 total wells to-date  
8,587 people served to-date

### IN 2022:

**117 WELLS FUNDED**  
**109,000+ PEOPLE**  
**GAINED ACCESS TO**  
**CLEAN WATER**

\*Water Project totals include the number of wells funded and implemented. In 2022, Ethiopian water project totals included 238 rehabilitated wells in Tigray, Ethiopia.



### FULL WELL SPONSORS

52 INDIVIDUALS  
38 CHURCHES  
10 BUSINESSES  
11 MAJOR FUNDRAISERS  
3 SCHOOLS

**DONORS  
GAVE  
\$701,571  
FOR  
WATER**

**DONORS  
GAVE  
\$1,098,595  
IN TOTAL  
CONTRIBUTIONS**



# SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



## WHERE WE WORK

We work in East Africa, in Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania. By focusing our work in the same geographical area, we are able to maximize our efficiency. The need is great in this area—in sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of people lack access to clean water. We work in rural areas as they are the most isolated from water.



## OUR PARTNERS

We work with local partners who are experts in water project construction. These partners have the ability to work with local government, and since they know the language and culture of the communities we serve, they are able to mobilize communities and prepare them for their new well.



## ON THE GROUND

Gashaw Simeneh, our Project Manager, lives in Ethiopia, and travels to all three countries to oversee all of our water projects. He conducts regular site visits and sends us progress reports during the construction process, so that our partners are held accountable for the work of building wells.



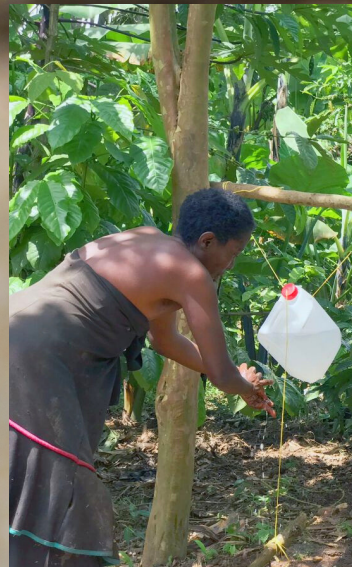
## WELL OWNERSHIP

Communities are actively involved in the process of building a well, from choosing a location to construction to ongoing maintenance. We want communities to take ownership of their well. The community selects a Water Committee, who establishes hours of operation for the well and manages a repair fund.



## EMPOWERMENT

Each Water Committee is locally-elected and made up of at least 50% women. Since women are the primary water collectors in East Africa, we ensure that they are included in making important decisions about the well. Plus, research shows that wells implemented with the support of women are more sustainable.



## EDUCATION

Along with their well, every community receives comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene training, to learn about water contamination, how to prevent waterborne diseases and the importance of hand-washing. The Water Committees are trained on how to operate and maintain each well.



# SEE THE DIFFERENCE, BE THE DIFFERENCE



**Inhari is a mother of six living in Ethiopia. She gained access to clean water for the first time this year.**

## **Before the well:**

**I know that this water is making our people sick. Many people in our village have been ill with Giardia, but we have no choice. I worry for my children. I am hopeful now that I know a well really is coming, and we will be free from this burden and constant worry.**

## **After the well:**

**I am so grateful to the donors of this well. May God bless you all; we are now healthy because of this precious gift of clean water. Thank you for considering us and for changing our lives!**



**Rohobot is a seven-year-old living in Ethiopia. She gained access to clean water for the first time this year.**

## **Before the well:**

**I did not know we were receiving a well. I have been traveling to get water a few times a day. The water makes us sick, but we have no other option.**

## **After the well:**

**Everything has changed, and we are very happy that we have clean drinking water. May God bless all those who funded and built the water project for us. Drinking clean water has saved us from getting sick. Thank you very much —now we have a healthy life.**



# LIVING OUR VALUES

## STEWARDSHIP

We provide regular project updates to donors and make our staff accessible for any donor needs or questions.

## IMPACT

We launched an Endowment Fund, so donors can invest in our future, and we can build wells for years to come.

## TRANSPARENCY

We continue to make our 100 Percent Promise that all donations for water go entirely toward water projects.

## INTEGRITY

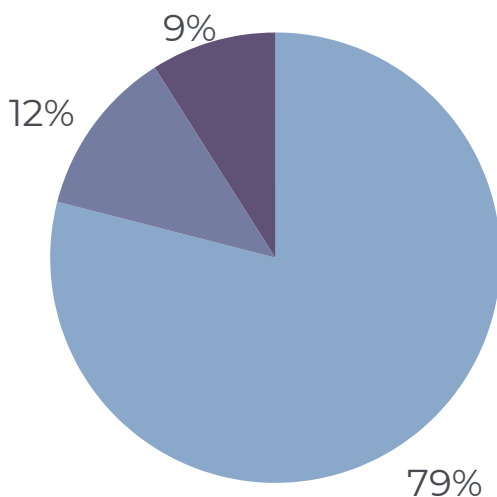
We refuse to compromise on the quality of our water projects. Our wells are projected to last 20+ years.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

All full well donors receive project completion reports, photos and the GPS coordinates of the well they funded.

## EMPOWERMENT

We empower our beneficiaries to take ownership of their well by giving them all the tools they need to maintain it.



## WATER TO THRIVE EXPENDITURES

79% SPENT ON WATER  
PROJECTS 12% SPENT ON  
FUNDRAISING  
9% SPENT ON OPERATIONS

Annual data, including total expenditures, is from 2022. To-date data is from 2008-2023.



# THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Water to Thrive started with a dream. Now, 15 years later, thousands of donors have become the difference.

"We have been honored and thrilled to be a part of the work of Water to Thrive over the last 12 years. We were called to be part of Water to Thrive based on the enormous impact they make, with their partners, in providing the most precious element for life—clean water. Beyond air for breathing, there is no more critical human need! So, although there is a range of needs in the world, we are compelled to help supply this resource to those in need.

After deciding to focus on water, we spent significant time researching how Water to Thrive differentiates their work through collaboration with in-region local partners, builds sustainability for the wells into the local structure at the village level, and focuses strongly on protecting funding for wells with programs for raising administrative and operational funding to avoid dilution of dollars given to build wells. We saw a convincing and responsible business model. One that we wanted to be part of."

Kevin & Teresa Smith, Water to Thrive Donors

We will carry on opening hearts and minds to the power of clean water and we hope to keep this passionate fire for change burning for years to come. If you feel called to be the difference for a community in need, scan the QR code below to donate.



Kevin & Teresa Smith



## LEADERSHIP

Susanne Wilson,  
Executive Director



@WaterToThrive

## BOARD MEMBERS

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Ed Scharlau, Treasurer  
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